

SAVING AMERICA'S WORKING LANDS

A National Conference Hosted by American Farmland Trust

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Session: Making a Case for PACE

SPEAKERS



Andy Seidl

Professor of Environmental and Development Economics and Nutrien Distinguished Scholar of Agricultural Sciences
Colorado State University

Dr. Andrew (Andy) Seidl is Professor of Environmental and Development Economics and Nutrien Distinguished Scholar of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University (USA). He is also Senior Technical Advisor, UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). Andy holds faculty appointments in the Colorado School of Public Health and the CSU School of Global Environmental Sustainability and on the faculty advisory board of the Salazar Center for North American Conservation. Previously, Seidl was Head, Global Economics Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland, Natural Resource Economist, Brazilian Center for Agricultural Research in the Pantanal (CPAP-EMBRAPA), Brazil, and Commodity Analyst, UN-FAO, Italy. Andy's work focuses on natural resource-based economic development, biodiversity finance, and private lands conservation policy. Dr. Seidl holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Florida, USA.



Barry Lonik

President

Treemore Ecology and Land Services

Barry Lonik has led the effort to create and implement the model farmland and natural area protection programs in Washtenaw County—some of the most successful in Michigan—for 33 years. Barry started Legacy Land Conservancy and served as its first executive director for six and a half years, developing it into an effective, durable nonprofit organization. He was also the primary advocate for public funding of land preservation in Washtenaw and has been involved with 16 ballot campaigns—fifteen of which won—that will raise over \$240 million for the acquisition of land and conservation easements. He is currently President of Treemore Ecology and Land Services, Inc., consulting with nonprofits, local governments, private landowners and conservation buyers toward the protection of natural and agricultural lands. Through Barry's direct involvement over 10,000 acres of land have been permanently protected mostly in and around Washtenaw County, and he has attracted over \$26 million of State and federal matching grants for farmland protection.

Barry completed a Master's degree in resource policy from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources, following up on a Bachelor's degree from Albion College in a self-designed environmental studies curriculum. He resides in Dexter Township where he grows most of his produce, hosts concerts in his house and his 150 year old barn and frequents local trails, streams and lakes as often as possible.



Julia Freedgood

Senior Fellow and Senior Program Advisor
American Farmland Trust

Julia is a prominent national expert in farmland protection, land tenure and access, agricultural viability, and food system planning. As Senior Fellow and Senior Program Advisor at American Farmland Trust, she focuses on the planning and policy framework required to support the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers, and to advance equitable and just regional food systems to increase food security and combat climate change. Currently writing a book on this subject, she also is involved in other research, extension, and community engagement projects at AFT. Julia is the author or co-author of many articles and reports, recent ones include “Cultivating the Next Generation: Resources and Policies to Help Beginning Farmers Succeed in Agriculture,” “Farms Under Threat: The State of the States,” “Fail to Include, Plan to Exclude: Reflections on Local Governments’ Readiness for Building Equitable Community Food Systems,” and “Growing Local: A Community Guide to Planning for Agriculture and Food Systems.” She has many professional affiliations. Among them, she is a long-time member of the American Planning Association, a founding member of North American Food Systems Network, and serves on the Advisory Board and Editorial Committee of the Journal of Agriculture Food Systems and Community Development. She has served on USDA’s Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant Review Board and USDA-Secretary Vilsack’s Land Tenure Advisory Committee. She holds a M.A. in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy from Tufts University.



Facilitator

Jennifer Dempsey

Director of Farmland Information Center and Senior Advisor
American Farmland Trust

Jennifer manages the FIC, a clearinghouse of resources used by AFT staff, agricultural landowners and farmers, concerned citizens, farmland protection professionals, planners, policymakers, academics, and the media. As part of this work, she oversees the FIC’s nationwide surveys, including annual surveys of farmland protection programs, transfer

of development rights programs, and a survey of land trusts that protect land for agriculture. Jennifer has written or supervised the development of FIC resources. She co-wrote AFT's "Farms Under Threat" report, "Cultivating the Next Generation: Resources and Policies to Help Beginning Farmers Succeed in Agriculture," and a land access curriculum on gaining access to land for beginning farmers. She is also currently managing the state policy scorecard for AFT's "Farms Under Threat" project. Jennifer served on the board of a local land trust and two terms on a local conservation commission. She currently serves on the USDA NASS Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. Jennifer completed her undergraduate work at Mount Holyoke College and earned a Master of Science in resource management and administration from Antioch New England Graduate School.